

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 PM-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 CU-04 NIC-01

RSR-01 INRE-00 /068 W

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P 041700 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0574

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STRASBOURG 43

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: STUDENTS RIOT IN STRASBOURG

1. SUMMARY - UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND LOCAL GAUCHISTS ENGAGED IN SEVEN HOUR BATTLE WITH POLICE TUESDAY NIGHT APRIL 3 IN MOST SERIOUS CONFRONTATION IN STRASBOURG SINCE MAY 68. INJURIES INCURRED ON BOTH SIDES, INCLUDING ONE STUDENT IN CRITICAL CONDITION. SEVERAL THOUSAND STUDENTS MARCHING IN STRASBOURG TODAY APRIL 3 TO PROTEST ALLEGED POLICE BRUTALITY. TODAY S DEMONSTRATION SO FAR WELL ORGANIZED AND NON-VIOLENT. SCHOOLS INVOLVED CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. END SUMMARY.
  2. POLICE FORCEFULLY EVACUATED STUDENTS FROM UTRASBOURG S FACULTY OF LETTERS EVENING OF APRIL 2, FOLLOWING OCCUPATION BEGUN ON MARCH 26 TO PROTEST CHANGES IN DRAFT LAW AND UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS. POLICE CALLED IN BY UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT AFTER HITHERTO ORDERLY OCCUPATION OF UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS BECOME DESTRUCTIVE.
  3. UPON EVICTION SOME 500 STUDENTS AND LEFTIST AGITATORS ESTABLISHED BARRICADES ON STREETS ADJACENT TO UNIVERSITY AND, UNTIL 3 AM THIS MORNING, HARRASSED 300 RIOT POLICE ON SCENE WITH STONES, GLASS AND MOLOTOV COCKTAILS.
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POLICE REPLIED WITH TEAR GAS GRENADES, INJURING SERIOUSLY AT LEAST ONE STUDENT WHO STILL ON CRITICAL LIST. ALL BARRICADES HAVE BEEN CLEARED AND FOR THE MOMENT CALM HAS RETURNED TO THE UNIVERSITY AREA.

4. GAUCHISTS EXPLOITED SITUATION THIS MORNING WITH FALSE RUMOR THAT INJURED STUDENT HAD DIED. THIS AND BALMY SPRING WEATHER LED SEVERAL THOUSAND CHANTING STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE IN CENTRAL STRASBOURG. STUDENTS SEEM WELL ORGANIZED AND PEACEFUL BUT POLICE ARE PRESENT IN FORCE.

5. MAJORITY OF 400 AMERICAN STUDENTS IN STRASBOURG ATTEND SPECIAL CLASSES FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS WHICH, FOLLOWING RIOT LAST NIGHT, HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED UNTIL AFTER EASTER. AMERICAN STUDENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN ADVISED TO AVOID UNIVERSITY AREA IN INTERIM.  
WOODS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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